(b) There are adequate domestic manufacturing outfits to meet the demand for power transmission and distribution equipment in the country, In addition, various manufacturers and increasing their capacities to meet this demand. Ministry of power is also interacting with Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers Association (IEEMA) and other manufacturers so that the projected demands are met.

(c) No such specific information is available with Ministry of Power.

(d) The expenditure of Research and Development (R & D) in power sector is made both by public and private sector. The expenditure on R & D by various Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPUs) under Ministry of Power during the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was Rs.36.39 crore, Rs. 27.06 crores and Rs.33.52 crores respectively.

Post matric scholarships for SCs and STs

438. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minsiter of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any decision to impose the condition of sixty per cent marks as a criterion for eligibility for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students for post-matric scholarships in professional institutions;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons for the same;

(c) if so, the number of such scholarships issued to students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) if so, whether any representations have been submitted for scrapping the above proposal;

(e) if so, the details of action taken on the above representations; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (f) The Government of India has decided to implement the Scheme of Post Matric Scholarships to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students, as it operated during the Tenth Plan period.

Menance of beggary

439. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that beggary is on increase in the country these days;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to put a clear ban on the beggary in the country and by when it expected to be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?